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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for arranging print data according to a layout of the print data, wherein the print data includes color patches and is printed by a color printer onto a recording medium in which the recording medium is processed by a target device comprising a color measuring device different from the printer, comprising:

determining, via communication with the printer, printing capabilities of the printer, wherein the printing capabilities include a designation of a valid area on the recording medium on which the printer can print;

obtaining processing capabilities of the target device from the target device, wherein the processing capabilities are obtained from the target device via communication with the target device, wherein the processing capabilities include a designation of a printable area on the recording medium for which the target device has processing capabilities for processing properly, and further include a minimum distance of separation between color patches and a minimum size for the color patches;

determining layout of the print data based on compatible capabilities between the printing capabilities of the printer and the processing capabilities of the target device, wherein, in a case where the target device is a flatbed scanner, the color patches are two-dimensionally located on the recording medium, and in a case where the target device is a strip reader, the color patches are one-dimensionally printed on the recording medium in the layout and a separator is located between brighter patches of the color patches ~~wherein the layout is characterized by an area on the recording medium that is common~~

~~between the valid area designated by the printing capabilities and a printable area designated by the processing capabilities that is properly processable by the target device;~~  
and

arranging print data for printout by the printer in accordance with the determined layout.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of determining layout further comprises the step of communicating with the printer so as to negotiate the layout.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of determining layout further comprises the step of communicating with the target device so as to negotiate the layout.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of communicating the layout of the print data to the printer and configuring the printer in accordance with the communicated layout.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the layout is communicated to the printer in a print job sent to the printer for printing the print data.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of communicating the layout of the print data to the target device and configuring the target device in accordance with the communicated layout.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing capabilities are determined through communication with the printer.

8. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing capabilities are determined through communication with a database that stores data of printing capabilities of the printer.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the database further stores data of printing capabilities of plural different printers.

10. to 12. (Canceled).

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing capabilities include at least one valid size for the recording medium and at least one printable area on the recording medium.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the processing capabilities include at least one valid size for the recording medium and at least one area on the recording medium that can be processed.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the processing capabilities further include at least one area on the recording medium that cannot be processed.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the processing capabilities further include a minimum distance of separation for images on the recording medium that can be processed.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the color patches comprise color patches for performing color calibration of the color printer.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the target device is a device selected from the group consisting of a stamp reader, a bar code reader, an automatic scoring device, an automatic folding device, an automatic stitching device, an automatic binding device, an automatic stamping device, and an automatic cutting device.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for arranging print data according to a layout of the print data, wherein the print data includes color patches and is printed by a color printer onto a recording medium in which the recording medium is processed by a target device comprising a color measuring device different from the printer, comprising:

a first interface to a printer;

a second interface to the target device;

a memory including a region for storing computer-executable process steps;

and

a processor for executing the computer-executable process steps;

wherein the computer-executable process steps include steps of: (a) determining, via communication with the printer, printing capabilities of the printer, wherein the printing capabilities include a designation of a valid area on the recording medium on which the printer can print; (b) obtaining processing capabilities of the target device from the target device, wherein the processing capabilities are obtained from the target device via communication with the target device, wherein the processing capabilities include a designation of a printable area on the recording medium for which the target device has processing capabilities for processing properly, and further include a minimum distance of separation between color patches and a minimum size for the color patches, (c) determining layout of the print data based on compatible capabilities between the printing capabilities of the printer and the processing capabilities of the target device, wherein, in a case where the target device is a flatbed scanner, the color patches are two-dimensionally located on the recording medium, and in a case where the target device is a strip reader, the color patches are one-dimensionally printed on the recording medium in the layout and a separator is located between brighter patches of the color patches ~~wherein the layout is characterized by an area on the recording medium that is common between the valid area designated by the printing capabilities and a printable area designated by the processing~~

~~capabilities that is properly processable by the target device;~~ and (d) arranging print data for printout by the printer in accordance with the determined layout.

21. to 38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A negotiation controller in a computer, the negotiation controller comprising computer-executable process steps to arrange print data according to a layout of the print data, wherein the print data includes color patches and is printed by a color printer onto a recording medium in which the recording medium is processed by a target device comprising a color measuring device different from the printer, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

code to determine, via communication with the printer, printing capabilities of the printer, wherein the printing capabilities include a designation of a valid area on the recording medium on which the printer can print;

code to obtain processing capabilities of the target device from the target device, wherein the processing capabilities are obtained from the target device via communication with the target device, wherein the processing capabilities include a designation of a printable area on the recording medium for which the target device has processing capabilities for processing properly, and further include a minimum distance of separation between color patches and a minimum size for the color patches;

code to determine layout of the print data based on compatible capabilities between the printing capabilities of the printer and the processing capabilities of the target device, wherein, in a case where the target device is a flatbed scanner, the color patches are

two-dimensionally located on the recording medium, and in a case where the target device is a strip reader, the color patches are one-dimensionally printed on the recording medium in the layout and a separator is located between brighter patches of the color patches  
~~wherein the layout is characterized by an area on the recording medium that is common between the valid area designated by the printing capabilities and a printable area designated by the processing capabilities that is properly processable by the target device;~~  
and

code to arrange print data for printout by the printer in accordance with the determined layout.

40. to 57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores a negotiation controller, the negotiation controller comprising computer-executable process steps to arrange print data according to a layout of the print data, wherein the print data includes color patches and is printed by a color printer onto a recording medium in which the recording medium is processed by a target device comprising a color measuring device different from the printer, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

a first determining step to determine, via communication with the printer, printing capabilities of the printer, wherein the printing capabilities include a designation of a valid area on the recording medium on which the printer can print;

an obtaining step to obtain processing capabilities of the target device from the target device, wherein the processing capabilities are obtained from the target device

via communication with the target device, wherein the processing capabilities include a designation of a printable area on the recording medium for which the target device has processing capabilities for processing properly, and further include a minimum distance of separation between color patches and a minimum size for the color patches;

a further determining step to determine layout of the print data based on compatible capabilities between the printing capabilities of the printer and the processing capabilities of the target device, wherein, in a case where the target device is a flatbed scanner, the color patches are two-dimensionally located on the recording medium, and in a case where the target device is a strip reader, the color patches are one-dimensionally printed on the recording medium in the layout and a separator is located between brighter patches of the color patches ~~wherein the layout is characterized by an area on the recording medium that is common between the valid area designated by the printing capabilities and a printable area designated by the processing capabilities that is properly processable by the target device;~~ and

an arranging step to arrange print data for printout by the printer in accordance with the determined layout.

59. to 76. (Canceled)

77. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the determining step, the plurality of layouts are displayed on a display device in a case where a plurality of layouts are determined on the basis of compatible capabilities between the printing capabilities of the printer and the processing capabilities of the target device, and



wherein any of the plurality of layouts displayed on the display device is manually selected.

78. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the determining step, the layout of the print data is characterized by an area on the recording medium that is common between the valid area designated by the printing capabilities and a printable area designated by the processing capabilities that is properly processable by the target device.